

Downside UP

A Voice of Contemporary Political Economy, Volume IX, Issue 1: January 2009
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A Vision for Obama

President Barack Obama: Our Vision for Your Administration

We, a group of 13 Democrats, joined together since 2004 to promote a Progressive Christian vision for our country, recognize the important actions you are working on. These include getting the economy working and the people back to work, making us a greener, more energy efficient nation, rebuilding our infrastructure, and raising our status in the eyes of the world. We support these steps and more:

Let the Word Go Out to the world that this is a new American Government prepared to engage with other countries, to listen, to work together, and to support the United Nations. Military action is a last resort. Focus on political solutions, however messy, for Afghanistan as well as Iraq. Have only one demand: that no country house al Qaeda or any other organization intent on attacking the United States.

Restructure Health Care; don't just move the pieces around from the mess we now have. First of all, end the gross inefficiency pervading our system of multiple payers with multiple rules. Have one set of rules which apply to all providers and all patients. It must be at least as efficient as Medicare. And make quality of care, not profit, the driving force.

Settle the Palestine-Israel Conflict. There is no peace without justice. There is more open discussion of the conflict in Israel than in the U.S., where anyone who questions Israeli actions or motives is denounced as pro-terrorist and anti-Israel. It is time to push back against AIPAC. Olmert has told the truth: there will be no peace until Israel gives up the West Bank and exclusive control of Jerusalem. In Israel, this idea is part of wide political discussion. Make this Hillary Clinton's most important task.

Reinvigorate AmeriCorps/Care for Our Troops. Give the millennial generation a chance to serve their country at home as well as at war. Take care of our wounded veterans. Pay off college loans and provide money for a college education for every year that a person serves either in the military or AmeriCorps. This will also pay us back in a better-educated work force and the taxes they will pay.

Name an Ombudsperson for the Poor. Larry Summers has surprised a lot of people by his concern for the effect of government actions on ordinary people. Do more. Name someone who sits at the Cabinet table to go anywhere and look at anything affecting the poor – and then speak up about it no matter whose ox is gored.

Outsourcing and Privatizing are a Scam for political cronies and contributors. Scale it back to those cases where it's the only solution and then bid them out. Government workers do more for less.

Recognize the historic and legitimate concerns of Russia.

Don't Forget Africa.

Betty & Don Richter, Elizabeth & Will Spencer, Robert Thomason, Marge Marsh & Earl Thompson, Jim & Kathy Vande Berg, Melissa & Ron Woodbury, Linda & Vic Yerrill
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Ronald Woodbury is the writer, publisher, editor, and general flunkey for all of *Downside Up*. While publication benefits from the editorial advice of one of his daughters, a friend, and occasional other pre-publication readers, they will, for their own privacy and sanity, remain anonymous.

Woodbury has B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in history, economics, and international affairs from Amherst College and Columbia University. In addition to many professional articles, he has published a column, also called *Downside Up*, in the Lacey, WA, *Leader*. After a 36 year career as a teacher and administrator at six different colleges and universities, he retired with his wife to St. Augustine, FL. He has two daughters, one a physician and one an anthropologist, and six grandchildren.

You may also find *Downside Up* issues from June, 2008 to the present at <http://www.downsideup2.blogspot.com/>